

IN THE CLAIMS:

A<sup>2</sup>  
7. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of Claim 1, and fragments thereof.

A<sup>3</sup>  
14. (amended) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 7.

16. (amended) A method for producing the polypeptide of Claim 1, which comprises the steps of :

A<sup>4</sup>  
(1) culturing a host cell comprising the polypeptide under a condition suitable for the expression of the polypeptide; and

(2) recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

17. (amended) An antibody specifically binding to the polypeptide of Claim 1.

19. (amended) A method for detecting the presence of the nucleic acid of Claim 7 in a mammal, which comprises the steps of:

(1) extracting total RNA from a sample obtained from the mammal;

A<sup>5</sup>  
(2) amplifying the RNA by reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) to obtain a cDNA sample;

(3) hybridizing the cDNA sample with the nucleic acid comprising the polypeptide; and

(4) detecting the amount of the hybridized sample.

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23. (amended) A method for detecting the presence of the polypeptide of Claim 1 in a mammal, which comprises the steps of contacting an antibody that specifically binds to the polypeptide with protein samples extracted from the mammal, and detecting the amount of antibody-antigen binding samples.

REMARKS

The above amendatory action is taken solely for the purpose of avoiding claim fees that would otherwise accrue due to the presence of multiple dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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